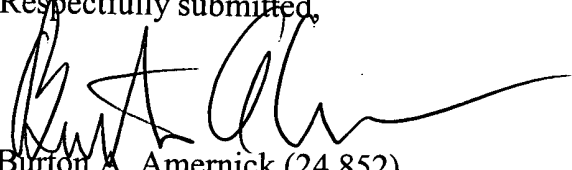


the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX – MARKED UP VERSION

8. (Amended) A method of using the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 [or 2] in a reaction step

wherein said reaction step is a step of carrying out an ion exchange reaction or a step of carrying out a reaction for activating an active hydrogen atom in an active hydrogen-containing compound.

9. (Amended) A method of producing a hydroxy alkyl (meth) acrylate by the reaction of a (meth) acrylic acid with an oxirane compound,

wherein the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 [or 2] is used as a catalyst.

10. (Amended) A method of producing glycols by the reaction of water with an oxirane compound,

wherein the crosslinked polymer according to Claim 1 [or 2] is used as a catalyst.